

Amendment _____ -- To rescind \$120 billion in federal spending by consolidating duplicative government programs, cutting wasteful Washington spending, and returning billions of dollars of unspent money.

This amendment would alleviate the need to increase the national debt limit by immediately **rescinding \$120 billion by consolidating more than 640 duplicative government programs**, cutting wasteful Washington spending, and returning billions of dollars of unspent money.

Just a year ago in January 2009, the national debt was \$10.6 trillion. Today, the national debt is \$12.2 trillion, more than \$39,000 per citizen.

This year's budget deficit is expected to reach \$1.5 trillion, which would mark the third straight record annual deficit. The Obama Administration projects the deficit will remain above \$1 trillion in 2011 and will not drop below \$739 billion over the next decade.

The federal government is now borrowing 43 cents for every dollar it spends.

Instead of eliminating ineffective, outdated, wasteful and duplicative programs, Congress is once again simply increasing the national debt limit to nearly \$14 trillion so Washington politicians can continue their excessive borrow-and-spending habits.

President Obama Pledged to "Spend Taxpayer Money Wisely" and "Eliminate Wasteful Redundancy"

As a candidate for president in 2008, Barack Obama pledged to "spend taxpayer money wisely," and specifically to "eliminate wasteful redundancy."

Obama stated "too often, federal departments take on functions or services that are already being done or could be done elsewhere within the federal government more effectively. The result is unnecessary redundancy and the inability of the government to benefit from economies of scale and integrated, streamlined operations."

He pledged to "conduct an immediate and periodic public inventory of administrative offices and functions and require agency leaders to work together to root out redundancy."

Yet, little has been done in the last year to accomplish these goals as spending and the number of new government programs have increased.

In fact, sixty percent of Americans think President Obama is not cutting enough waste from government, according to a poll released last year.^[1]

This amendment would do accomplish what the president has pledged and what the American people expect by consolidating more than 640 duplicative federal programs, reducing excessive and unnecessary spending and saving approximately \$120 billion.

Excessive Borrowing and Spending Threatens the Financial Stability of Medicare, Social Security, and the Nation Itself

The U.S. national debt increased more than \$4 billion every day in the past year.

Of the \$9 trillion in debt the government is likely to accrue over the next ten years, \$4.8 trillion will be interest.

This is \$4.8 trillion that could be better spent on national defense or returned to taxpayers to pay for health care, education, and other necessities. Instead, families will be forced to pay higher taxes to pay off Congress' out of control spending excesses and future generations of Americans will experience a lower standard of living as a result.

The excessive debt doesn't only threaten the future of younger Americans, it threatens the retirement security of older Americans. Retirement programs like Medicare and Social Security are on the verge of bankruptcy. Medicare is expected to run out of money and become insolvent in 2017. Social Security will permanently start running a deficit in 2016, and will no longer be able to pay retirees full benefits by 2037.

Other important government programs Americans rely on nearly every day, such as the Highway Trust Fund and the U.S. Postal Service, are also spending more than they are bringing in with revenues.

Only by reducing excessive spending now, can dramatic increases in taxes or cuts in government programs and benefits be avoided in the near future.

^[1] <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2009/05/15/fox-news-poll-americans-want-government-spending/>

The Family Budget Gets Smaller While the Government Budget Gets Bigger

The economy is struggling. Unemployment remains at 10 percent and family incomes fell by more than three percent last year.

Yet, while inflation is near zero, Washington spending continues to increase dramatically. In just the last year, the national debt increased 15 percent.

While most of the country faces tough financial times and tax revenues have declined, Congress continues to approve double-digit spending increases for bloated federal agencies wrought with duplication, waste, abuse, and mismanagement of taxpayer funding.

Congress gave itself a 5.8 percent (\$245 million) raise, far outpacing the negative growth in family budgets. While individuals across the country are worried they might lose their job, members of Congress are focused on trying to keep their jobs by earmarking more than \$11 billion for pork projects.

In the last twelve months while Americans across the country adjusted their spending to the size of the shrinking family budget, Congress has passed trillions of dollars in new spending, on everything from a multi-billion dollar omnibus lands package that increases the size and cost of federal land property ownership to a nearly \$1 trillion stimulus bill that has failed to create new jobs to a \$2.5 trillion health care bill that penalizes Americans who cannot afford health insurance.

This massive spending has done nothing to put Americans back to work, but rather added to the debt that working Americans will be forced to eventually repay at the expense of their own family budget.